

Grand Jury Makes Recommendations Quarterly Report

Judge Thompson Praises Jury For Diligent Work

Filing their report Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock, members of the Martin County grand jury were highly commended in open court by Judge C. Everett Thompson, the jurist expressing the hope that he might meet with the same men in months to come.

Other than a few recommendations made by the jury, the report is recognized as a stamp of approval of the county administration. The jail, offices and county home were found in "good" condition, but conditions were reported only "fair" at the prison camp, the jury pointing out the crowded conditions there.

The report follows, signed by G. H. Harrison, foreman, in detail: All bills have been disposed of that came into our hands.

We find that all justices of the peace have filed their reports, and all fines have been paid to the county treasurer with the exceptions of Mr. J. T. Wildman, of Parmele, and Mr. J. A. Davenport, of Hamilton.

We inspected the offices of the County Treasurer, Sheriff, and Clerk of the Superior Court, and found all records filed in good order and general condition very good. We have also examined the office of the Register of Deeds and found that all bonds of the county officials have been filed and approved by the commissioners.

We have inspected the jail and find same in very good condition.

We examined the county home and went over same with the keeper and found general conditions good and plenty of milk for the patients and the inmates were very well satisfied with the treatments they were receiving. We also visited the prison camp and found same in fair condition except a little overcrowded.

We have inspected all school buses of the county and beg leave to report the following:

Everetts—All trucks were in good condition except Truck No. 15 which had a broken side light and horn out of order.

Robersonville—All trucks were in good condition except Truck No. 23 which had broken brakes and Truck No. 10 which had six side lights broken and Truck No. 21 which had one side light broken.

Parmele—The only truck in this school was found in good condition.

Hassell—The only truck at this school was found in good condition.

Oak City—All trucks were found in good condition except Truck No. 2 which had a bad tire on the right rear, and one broken side light, and No. 12 which had seven broken side lights, and the muffler was out of order.

Hamilton—All trucks were found in good condition.

We found all other trucks of the various schools in good condition.

There has been a complaint made to this jury from the highway patrolman, W. S. Hunt, that one inmate of the County Home, R. S. Richardson, who is slightly deaf, has been giving a lot of trouble about "bumming" on the highway which is very dangerous and we recommend that some steps be taken to keep him off the highway.

Former Resident To Hold Service

A meditation on the Grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, will be led by Mrs. William J. Gordon, of Spray, N. C., immediate past president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of North Carolina, at St. Martin's church, Hamilton, on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Gordon, who is the wife of a former rector of this parish, and a former resident of Hamilton and Scotland Neck, being the former Miss Anna Clark, will conduct a series of these devotional meditations at Trinity Church, Scotland Neck, next week and comes to Hamilton from there. She is well qualified to conduct meditations, having taught at Kanuga for several summers, and being often in demand to assist with preaching missions both in her own diocese and in East Carolina. Those who heard her at the annual meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary in Washington in January will remember her deep sense of devotion and her wholly religious nature.

St. Martin's Parish extends to the Church of the Advent and to all interested persons a cordial invitation to hear this address on next Tuesday March 28th, at 3 p. m.

Chas. H. Jenkins Firm Opens New Garage Building Here

The Charles H. Jenkins Company, local dealer for Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, Cadillac, LaSalle cars and General Motors Trucks, opened their new garage here this week with Mr. Charles Jenkins actively in charge.

Modern in every detail with two of the most commodious and artistic showrooms in Eastern Carolina, this new firm stands to become one of Eastern Carolina's largest and most extensive auto dealerships.

Mr. Jenkins stated this morning that he would spend a majority of his time in Williamston and would devote practically all his time to this branch of the Charles H. Jenkins Company.

With branches in Washington, Au-

lander and Edenton, this firm will carry every product of General Motors with the exception of Chevrolet cars. With a large used car lot directly in front of the building, Mr. Jenkins said he would have on display practically all the time, most any kind and model used car a customer could wish for.

A twelve-foot driveway separates the two large showrooms and the offices are directly back of the right showroom. There is ample space in the back for repairing at least ten or twelve cars at the same time.

The formal opening of this firm in Williamston will be announced soon and even now Mr. Jenkins said he would be glad to have the people of this entire section visit this new garage.

Farmville-Woodward Firm Adds To Its Plant

MORE CHECKS

With millions to write, the AAA of the U. S. Department of Agriculture continues slowly to prepare checks for Martin farmers who participated in the 1938 soil conservation program. Forty-eight checks, amounting to \$1,987.49 and representing 29 applications, were received this week by the office of the county agent for distribution. To date, farmers in this county have received a total of \$46,032.74 in soil benefit payments, or about one-fourth of the amount expected under the last year's soil conservation program.

Offer No Reason For Removal Of County Road Map

Highway Authorities Will Meet Commissioners In Early April

Questioned about the sudden removal of a map showing the proposed route for an improved road in Griffins Township, State Highway authorities have not yet offered a reason for the unexpected action, it is understood. At least two letters have been received by county authorities from representatives of the highway commission, but they merely stated that the matter would be discussed further when the county commissioners meet here in early April.

Posted in late February, the map was removed on March 13 under orders of Engineer Gardner, of the highway commission's office in Tarboro. At the time, local highway representatives stated they were merely acting under orders, that they could offer no reason why the map should be removed.

Withholding approval of the proposed road route, the commissioners in a special meeting ruled that the map should be displayed publicly in the county for thirty days. This action had the sanction of the district highway commissioner on Saturday, March 11. On the following Monday, the map was torn down, some saying it was sent to Tarboro and later to Raleigh.

Highway department representatives maintain that while the project is certain to be delayed, it will not be abandoned. No action in advancing the project is now likely before the commissioners meet in regular session Monday after next.

To Continue Drive For Scout Funds

D. V. Clayton, David Hix and James Manning, meeting here yesterday with assistant Scout Executive George Tomlinson, made plans to renew a drive to raise the funds needed to promote Scouting in Martin County for the next twelve months.

Committees from the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs were appointed to canvass the town several weeks ago. The committees that functioned have met with fair success but there is yet a considerable sum of money to be raised to guarantee scouting for another year.

Messrs. Manning, Hix and Clayton are asking that all who are called on for donations make as liberal a contribution as possible.

New Planing Unit And Third Boiler Will Be Installed

Employment Will Be Given To Around Thirty More Men

Adding a modern planing unit and a third boiler to its plant here, the Farmville-Woodward Lumber Company is now rushing to completion a plant enlargement program that will create jobs for around thirty additional men and jump its mill personnel up to around 85 persons Manager Dean Speight said yesterday.

An unofficial estimate on the cost of the enlargement program is not available, but it is thought that the new equipment will represent an added investment of approximately \$10,000.

Discontinuing its plant at Farmville, the company will center most of its sawing and planing activities at the local mill. At the present time most of the rough lumber turned out by the local plant has been shipped to the company's plant in Hobgood for finishing.

In addition to its enlargement program, the company is planning on adding an extra shift and step up its daily production from around 25,000 to 35,000 feet. The added hours will greatly increase employment opportunities to local labor.

The company is operating strictly in accordance with the federal wage and hour laws.

Upon the completion of its enlargement program about the first of May, the company will be one of the largest manufacturing concerns in the county. Including the number of men working under contract in the logwoods and truckers, the company upon the completion of the addition to its plant will have around 150 employees.

Missionary Meet Held In Raleigh

The annual spring missionary institute of the Disciples of Christ of North Carolina was held in the Hillier Memorial Christian church in Raleigh on Wednesday from ten to three o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. C. Manley Morton, for many years missionaries to Puerto Rico and who are home on furlough, were the principal speakers. Mrs. W. B. Ryan, of Greenville, one of the leaders of the state in children's work was a speaker. Message from the adult conference was brought by Mrs. Huell Warren, of Winston-Salem.

Dr. Howard S. Hilley in enumerating the fine support that the college had obtained from the State said that the new college chapel can be completed with the addition of three thousand dollars. He hopes to obtain that amount this spring from generous disciples over the state.

Dr. W. B. Holder, a former missionary to Africa, now working in the department of Home Missions, spoke in the afternoon. Among those attending from Williamston Christian church were the following: Mrs. George H. Harrison, Mrs. A. R. Dunning, Mrs. W. L. Manning, Mrs. J. O. Manning, Mrs. R. L. Smith, Mrs. H. O. Jarman, Mrs. John L. Goff, Mrs. R. W. Bondurant, Mrs. Henry Harrison, Mrs. J. G. Corey, Mrs. C. B. Roebuck, Mrs. H. T. Taylor and Rev. John L. Goff.

Court In Recess After Hearing A Few Civil Cases

Nine Cases Are Set For Trial Here During Next Week

After devoting a greater part of the first three days of a two weeks' term of Martin County Superior Court to the trial of criminal cases, Judge C. Everett Thompson called the first civil action Wednesday afternoon. After handling four cases on the civil calendar, the court caught up with its schedule for the week and took a recess early yesterday afternoon until next Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Interest in the court proceedings waned when the criminal docket was completed Wednesday afternoon, the large number of spectators witnessing the trial of criminal cases vacating the courtroom immediately after the judge pronounced sentence on Joe Johnson, one of the last defendants to be tried this term.

Next week, the court will call nine civil cases for trial. Three others, involving issues, will likely be called and a fourth will likely be placed in the hands of a referee for consideration.

A compromise settlement was effected in the case of T. V. and W. M. Davis against Cora Hill involving a property line dispute.

A correction in judgment was ordered in the case of Standard Fertilizer company against W. E. Allen and others.

Suing to recover payments on certain notes, Henry Everett was awarded a judgment in the sum of \$155.74 with interest from date in the case against D. G. Matthews.

A Corey was appointed to survey certain lands to determine boundaries in a case brought by Goldie Hyman against Dora Williams.

War Feeling In The County Home

No serious consequences are anticipated, but there is a strong war feeling in the Martin County home, according to county officers who were called there this week to intervene in a quarrel between an aged inmate and an ailing patient.

The incident, marked by dangerous threats but nothing more, centered around a cap worn by one of the home employees. "That cap looks just like the one the boys wore in the World War," "Skeeter" Hodges remarked to old man Leo Hack, half German inmate in the home. "Well, I'm glad it hasn't got any writing on it about liquor."

Hack replied: "I'm glad it hasn't got any German signs on it." Hodges fired back at him.

Said to have rolled up his sleeves Hack picked up a chair and started on inmate Hodges. Sheriff Roebuck was called to quiet the two. Hodges agreed to shake hands with the old man and forget the incident. "No, I'll never shake hands with Hodges. I'll go to — on a fire truck first," Hack told the sheriff, adding that he was half German and proud of it.

Two Killed in Auto Wreck Near Bethel

Ray Stokes, Ayden white man, and Mack Harris, Negro of Kinston, were killed instantly, and Alfred Couvrez, colored, were critically injured Tuesday night when the car in which they were riding ran off an embankment near Bethel.

The three men, said to have been under the influence of liquor, were driving from Greenville and were about a mile out of Bethel when the car left the road and crashed down the embankment. The survivor of the wreck stated that the trio was going to Richmond.

Suffering a broken neck and other injuries, Couvrez is not expected to live.

Stokes, 45, and Harris, 68, never knew what happened, death was so sudden for them.

Stokes was well known in this section where he painted signs for a number of firms during the past several years.

Nineteen Defendants Sentenced To Prison

Added Premium Is Placed On Honesty By Superior Judge

Law Violators Will Remember Judge's Visit Here a Long Time

When he completed the trial of the criminal docket in the Martin County Superior court here Wednesday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock, Judge C. Everett Thompson, of Elizabeth City, left little doubt in the minds of the people and none whatever in the minds of the defendants as to how he felt about breaking into stores and smokehouses and stealing the property of a law-abiding citizen. The spectators were agreed that the jurist places a premium on honesty and righteousness, and that those sentenced in the court this week will long remember the judge from over in the first judicial district.

Completing his charge to the grand jury last Monday, Judge Thompson threw the court machinery into action, the wheels of justice turning slowly but surely. Before very many cases had been heard and after the first few sentences had been pronounced, the spectators strained their necks to make certain that the jurist meant years and not months. Judge Thompson, by Tuesday afternoon, was the talk of the town, and the number of spectators in the colored portion of the courtroom increased to tax the capacity of the room.

While Judge Thompson was attracting attention with his judgment measuring pot, the State was doing some good work in getting the defendants before him. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck and his deputies backed up Solicitor Don Gilliam and in several cases the defendants changed their pleas and admitted their guilt without offering any testimony in their own behalf.

Only four of the 28 defendants facing trial were found not guilty. The court suspended judgment in two or three cases, but when the criminal proceedings were completed Wednesday afternoon, eighteen defendants were sentenced to prison or to the roads for a total of nearly three-quarters of a century, an average of a little more than four years for each one.

Proceedings not previously reported: Doc Whitfield, charged with non-support, was found not guilty.

Harry Bell, young Gold Point Negro, was sentenced to the roads for twelve months for attacking Farmer W. A. Vanderford with a bottle last December. In returning a verdict of guilty, the jury recommended mercy, and Judge Thompson suspended execution of judgment and ordered the defendant placed on probation for three years.

Joe Johnson, booked on two robbery counts, was found guilty of robbing the C. B. Allen filling station on the Hamilton Road and was sentenced to the roads for five to seven years. Johnson pleaded not guilty when the case was called, but admitted his guilt when the State completed its evidence. The case charging him with the robbery of the Paul Lilley filling station case on November 26 of last year was nolleprossed with leave. No action was taken against Johnson by the grand jury in connection with the Paul Lilley murder case. However, more is expected to be heard about the case later on.

Marshall Teel, young Negro, was sentenced to the roads for not less than three nor more than five years in the case charging him with breaking and entering and larceny.

John Rogers in his case against Maletia Rogers was granted an absolute divorce on the grounds of two years of separation.

Simon E. Parker, charged with drunken driving, gained his freedom.

Small Home Burns On The Jamesville Road

Joe Jones, aged colored man, nearly lost his life when his home was destroyed near here on the Jamesville road last Sunday afternoon.

Dozing around a heater fire, Jones detected a fire in the roof of his one-story four-room house. Jones, 70 years old, crawled to the top of the house and exhausted himself in an effort to put the fire out. Neighbors rushing to the fire, removed the old man to safety.

HOSPITAL

A permit was issued here this morning for the construction of a ten-room hospital on West Main Street between the D. M. Roberson and I. M. Margolis homes. No detailed information of the project has been released other than the building will be of brick construction and that the one-story structure will have ten rooms.

The builders are planning to start construction work immediately.

Mrs. Allie Riddick Dies At Daughter's Home Wednesday

Funeral Services Are Held Yesterday By Rev. W. B. Harrington

Mrs. Allie Chesson Riddick, aged county native, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Hardison, near Dardens, Wednesday morning at 8:05 o'clock, following a long period of declining health. Despite her advanced age of 81 years, Mrs. Riddick was able to be up until about five weeks before her death. Infirmities of age and complications were assigned as the cause of her death.

The daughter of the late Malachia Corpew, of this county, and Ellen Bateman Corpew, of Washington County, Mrs. Riddick was born in the community where she lived a long and useful life. In early womanhood she married John E. Riddick who died a number of years ago. For more than half a century she was a faithful and devoted member of the Primitive Baptist church at Jamesville, and enjoyed a large friendship circle throughout her community.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister, assisted by Rev. Garland Bland, at the Hardison home, the old Riddick home place. Interment was in the family plot in the Methodist churchyard at Dardens.

She is survived by eight children, three daughters, Mrs. Annie Hardison, of Dardens; Mrs. Evelyn Riddick, of Portsmouth; and Mrs. Mamie Teachey, of Florence, S. C., and five sons, John Riddick, of Alton, Ill.; Hillary Riddick, of Portsmouth; Arthur Riddick, of St. Louis, Alton Riddick, of Florence, S. C.; and Herman Riddick, of Dardens. She also leaves fifteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Appropriation Bill For Weevil Control

The Agricultural Appropriation bill on which debate started in the House today contains a provision offered by Representative Lindsay Warren for an increase in appropriation of \$25,000 for investigation of the tobacco moth and tobacco weevil. \$13,000 has formerly been appropriated for this purpose, the investigation being carried on in Richmond, Va.

For the first time the tobacco moth appeared in the pack houses on farms last summer and has worked great havoc on tobacco just before it is placed on the auction floor. Members of congress from North Carolina and Virginia appeared before the appropriations committee and strongly supported the increase which is greatly desired by farmers.

Jamesville Young Man Patient In Hospital

Injured in an automobile accident in New York City while enroute to his home in Jamesville, Dr. S. Wallace Fleming is now in a Washington hospital for treatment.

Receiving a slight injury, Mr. Fleming continued to his home and became quite ill last week-end when an infection developed. He was removed to the hospital the early part of this week, late reports from his bedside stating that his condition is slightly improved today, but that he continues gravely ill.

A student doctor in Boston, young Fleming was on his way home to spend the spring holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Fleming, when he fell victim of the automobile accident.

State Farm Bureau Making Plans For Political Activity

Former County Man Mentioned for Commissioner

Defeated in their efforts to have State test farms placed under the supervision of the State College Extension Division and taken away from the Department of Agriculture State Farm Bureau leaders are apparently already turning to the political front and making ready for the 1940 activities. E. F. Arnold, secretary of the State Farm Bureau Federation, intimated in a speech in this county a short time ago that the fight would possibly be carried to the people if some action was not taken to establish a test farm for peanuts and place test farms under the educational college.

In keeping with the unannounced plans of the organization, Farmer B. B. Everett, native of this county but a big farm operator of Halifax, has been mentioned as a candidate of the farm organization for State Commissioner of Agriculture. Mr. Everett denies the circulated reports that he will run for Commissioner Scott's job, but it is apparent that the Farm Bureau is grooming a man to offer Mr. Scott opposition in the 1940 contest.

The following story, pertaining to the Everett family and a move to shake up the department of agriculture, appeared in the News and Observer this week:

EVERETTS—Th Everett family of Martin County has done its part in supplying law-makers—R. O. Everett, of Durham and J. A. Everett of Martin, representatives, and the late S. J. Everett of Greenville, senator.

The present representative devoted his full attention to cotton, tobacco and peanuts on 5,000 acres of farm land and to a general merchandise store at Palmyra, leaving law-making to his brothers. When he joined the Farm Bureau and became a State director of that organization, he heard so much about alleged "duplication" of agricultural services he decided to come to Raleigh and do something about it.

He won in the primary and succeeded in getting a berth on the House Agriculture Committee. But there he was stymied, and for six weeks or more has been unable to "report progress." Giving up hope of action there, he bolted the committee and tried to force consideration on the house floor of a bill that would transfer test farms and test farm funds from the Department of Agriculture to the experiment station at State College. He was likewise stymied on the floor, for the bill was bounced back to the committee where the whole controversy has been confined.

The Farm Bureau's fight to transfer test farms to State College and Everett's directorship in the bureau have started the rumor around Raleigh that the Halifax representative intends to run for commissioner of agriculture against W. Kerr Scott next year, supported by the Farm Bureau. The same rumor has been heard about Representative W. W. Eagles, of Edgecombe, chairman of the House agriculture committee and a Farm Bureau leader in his county.

Jail Is Emptied By Judge Thompson

Martin County's jail is virtually empty, and the inmates did not break out. When Judge Thompson completed his work here last Wednesday, a clean sweep of the hoosegow had been made.

Nine men were moved out to the prison camp near here. A tenth man was carried to a Northampton camp, and six others were moved to Raleigh. Officers have been doing a thriving passenger business since Tuesday, making two trips to Raleigh and four or five to the road camps.

The names of the ten men sentenced to the roads are: Marshall Teel, Robert Brown, Charlie Wiggins, Clyde Silverthorne, Herbert Brown, Jeff Whitehurst, Lawrence Biggs, Ben and Bryant Dixon, Isaac Sutton, all colored, and Clyde Silverthorne.

The names of those going to State's prison are: J. B. Thomas, T. F. Jackson, Solon Jackson, white; Joe Johnson, Willie June Williams and Nicodemus Barrow, colored.

Aged Colored Man Dies At Poplar Point Home

James Slade, aged colored man, died at his home on the T. B. Slade farm in Poplar Point yesterday morning. He had lived there all his life.